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MRS. CATHERINE GEERS YATES.

Death of an honorary member of the Illinois State Historical Society.

Mrs. Catherine Geers Yates, widow of Richard Yates, War Governor of Illinois.

Mrs. Yates' maiden name was Catherine Geers, and she was born in Lexington, Kentucky, September 22, 1822. She was the daughter of William and Mary W. Geers. She came to Jacksonville in 1830, having spent the previous year in St. Louis, Mo. Miss Geers was married to Richard Yates in Jacksonville, on July 9, 1839. She was the mother of five children, William, who in his eleventh year was killed by lightning; Mary, who died in infancy; Henry, who was insurance commissioner of Illinois during the administration of Richard Yates, Jr., died 1903; Catherine, who died in 1888; and Richard Yates, Governor of Illinois, 1901-1905.

Mrs. Yates died at her home in Jacksonville, Ills., October 6, 1908. A more extended notice of the life of Mrs. Yates will appear in the Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for 1908.

In connection with the above notice of the death of Mrs. Catherine Yates we publish the following interesting notice of the deaths of four pioneer women of Jacksonville, Ills., Mrs. Catherine Yates being one of the number:

Within the past year four "elderly and elect" ladies intimately identified with the history of Jacksonville for the past three quarters of a century, have passed away: Mrs. Millicent Yates Mathers, Mrs. Delia Witherbee Wadsworth, Mrs. Catherine Geers Yates, and Mrs. Mary Geers Yates. Mrs. Mathers was the widow of Wesley Mathers, who died in 1875, after being most prominent in Jacksonville, of which city he was many times mayor. Her age was 81. She was born in 1827 and married in 1847. She was the daughter of Henry and Millicent Yates, of Berlin, Sangamon county. Her husband, Wesley Mathers a merchant, was for fifty years partner of Archibald C. Wadsworth and the latter's wife, Delia Witherbee Wadsworth, died two days after the death of Mrs. Mathers. Mrs. Wadsworth's age was 80. She was daughter of Seth and ——— Witherbee. Not only were Millicent Yates' and Delia Witherbee's husbands in a business partnership, but another tie existed, for Delia Wadsworth's daughter Helen married Richard Yates, Jr., nephew of Millicent Mathers,

Catherine Geers Yates died October 6, 1908, aged 86. She was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1822, daughter of William and Mary Watkins Geers, granddaughter of James and Mary Geers and James and Mary Watkins. She was married in 1839, to Richard Yates, who died in 1873. Mary Geers Yates was a sister of Catherine, and, born in 1828, died January 8, 1909, at Yates Center, Kansas, at the age of 81 years. She was married to Abner Yates, who died in 1904, aged 84. They were married in 1851. She was Delia Wadsworth's bridesmaid.